(b) Cases in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts are disposed of after observing procedural formalities and principles of natural justice. Some of the reasons for belated disposal of cases are:

(i) Absence of both applicants and respondents.

(ii) Adjournment sought by parties to file documents.

(iii) Time taken for appointment of Presiding Officers after observing all procedural formalities.

(d) STEPS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY TO EXPEDITE DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

(i) The need to reduce pendency of Industrial Dispute cases in the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers by taking up the matter with them from time to time.

(ii) Expeditious steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts of Presiding Officers in the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.

Re-employment to surplus Labourers

†4495. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to re-train and to provide re-employment to the surplus labourers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide funds from the National Renewal Fund for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) National Renewal Fund (NRF) has ceased to exist, with effect from 31.3.2001. However from 1.4.2001 the Department of Public Enterprises have

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

taken over the work relating to counseling, retraining and redeployment of optees of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) from Central Public Sector Enterprises. The Department of Public Enterprises has made provisions in the budget proposals of 2001-2002 for the above purpose.

Landless Agricultural Labourers

4496. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of landless agricultural labourers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a special scheme for the benefit of these landless agricultural labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement such special scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) A proposal to introduce a scheme for providing social security for agricultural workers including landless agricultural workers, is at present under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Landless Agricultural Labourers

As per 1991 Census

S. No.	States/UTs	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers
1	2	3
1.	**INDIA (excluding J & K)**	**74,597,744**
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,625,159
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,054
3.	Assam	844,964